REMARKS

Claims 46 - 51 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in subsequently filed continuation applications.

Claims 1, 6, 16 - 17, 20 - 22, 28 - 31 and 36 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 45 are present in the subject application.

In the Office Action mailed August 31, 2006, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the McGraw-Hill publication in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,141 (Helmick et al.). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 46 - 51.

Briefly, the present invention is directed toward a system, method and storage device with executable instructions for storing a content object in a data repository as a group of hierarchically related content entities. Each content entity is contained in a separate file object. A list or outline containing container and non-container identifiers defines the content, order and structure of the content object. This list or outline is stored as a separate file object.

In order to assist in an understanding of the present invention, the present invention features may be illustrated by the following example with respect to generation of a content object in the form of a book. The book structure may include volumes each with one or more chapters, where each chapter, in turn, may include one or more sections. The content of the chapter sections resides in the data repository as individually accessible files each containing a section (or content entity). The present invention system basically represents the book in the form of a hierarchical outline of containers (e.g., representing volumes or chapters) and

subordinate non-containers (e.g., sections). The non-containers are each associated with content entity identifiers indicating the files containing the content (or content entities) in the data repository to be included within the corresponding container and book. The hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers is stored as a separate file object. A user interface enables a user to manipulate the outline to select and alter the book content. In other words, a user may construct and arrange the book (e.g., into volumes, chapters, sections, etc.) with content (e.g., text, images, etc.) selected from the data repository. When the user adds, removes or moves book content, the corresponding content entity identifier is respectively added, removed or moved within the outline.

The Examiner takes the position with respect to independent claims 1, 6, 16, 21, 31 and 36 that the McGraw-Hill publication discloses all the features within these claims, except for adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first list adds the identified content entity to the first content object. The Examiner further alleges that the McGraw-Hill publication strongly suggests, while the Helmick et al. patent discloses, these features and that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of the McGraw-Hill publication and Helmick et al. patent to attain the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Initially, independent claims 1, 16 and 31 have been amended and recite the features of: defining a first content object by a first list of content entity identifiers indicating the content entities within the first content object; a hierarchical arrangement of the content entity identifiers within the first list includes at least one hierarchical tier and at least one subordinate tier and corresponds to a user-defined hierarchical structure of the first content object; the content entity identifiers are determined by the processing system and placed in the list in response to user selection of ones of the second plurality of content entities

and corresponding locations for the selected content entities within the first content object; and adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first list at a location corresponding to the user selected location adds the identified content entity to the first content object at a location within the hierarchical structure corresponding to the location within the list hierarchical arrangement.

Independent claims 6, 21 and 36 have been amended and recite the features of: defining the first content object by a first hierarchical outline of containers and content entity identifiers corresponding to a user-defined hierarchy of the first content object; each container representing an outline hierarchical tier and includes at least one content entity identifier forming a subordinate outline hierarchical tier; the content entity identifiers are determined by the processing system and placed in the first outline in response to user selection of ones of the second plurality of content entities and corresponding locations for the selected content entities within the first content object; and adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first outline at a location corresponding to the user selected location adds the identified content entity to the first content object at a location within the first content object hierarchy corresponding to the location within the hierarchical outline.

Claims 17, 20, 22 and 28 - 30 have been amended for consistency with their amended parent claims.

The McGraw-Hill publication does not disclose, teach or suggest these features. Rather, the McGraw-Hill publication discloses a database containing a collection of modular, stand-alone text files that can be mixed, matched and arranged to create a new book for a particular course (e.g., See Page 3). A user may select various portions of existing books to add to the new book being created (e.g., See Pages 6 - 12). The existing books are displayed in a table of

contents type format and enable selection of portions for viewing and/or addition to the new book. A user may view the contents of the new book, where the contents are displayed with each selected portion indicated by their title and the title of the book and/or chapter from which they were selected. A user may arrange or reorder the displayed portions to arrange the new book (e.g., Page 9 of the Powerpoint presentation on how to use Primis cited by the Examiner).

The Examiner takes the position that each content entity has corresponding identifiers, such as the title or name, URL and an identification number. However, the pages cited by the Examiner just indicate the origin of the selected portions (e.g., the chapter and book from which the portion is selected) with links to view or add the portion to the book being created. The displayed portions represent the structure of a book from which the selections are taken and not of the new book being created. Although the selected portions are arranged as a list (e.g., Page 9 of the Powerpoint presentation on how to use Primis cited by the Examiner), there is no disclosure of the list including a hierarchical structure including subordinate tiers as recited in the claims. In other words, a user can arrange the selected portion order, but there is no disclosure of the portions being arranged by a user into hierarchical tiers.

In addition, the McGraw-Hill publication is silent with respect to the manner in which the selected portions are arranged and handled by the system to form the book and, therefore, does not disclose, teach or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 6, 16, 21, 31 and 36 of: defining the content object by a hierarchical list or outline with hierarchical tiers and subordinate tiers corresponding to the content object hierarchical structure; the content entity identifiers being determined by the processing system and placed in the first list or outline in response to user selection of ones of the second plurality of content entities and corresponding

locations for the selected content entities within the first content object; and adding the content entity identifier of one of the second plurality of content entities to the first list or outline at a location corresponding to the user selected location adds the identified content entity to the first content object at a location within the first content object hierarchy corresponding to the location within the hierarchical list or outline.

The Helmick et al. patent does not compensate for the deficiencies of the McGraw-Hill publication. Rather, the Helmick et al. patent discloses an on-line educational system, where an instructor builds a course on-line containing identification of assignments and educational materials which are compiled into an on-line electronic syllabus (e.g., See Abstract). Although the Helmick et al. patent discloses an add content screen (Fig. 3X) to add or modify content of a syllabus, there is no disclosure with respect to the manner in which the content for the syllabus is arranged and handled by the system. Further, the Helmick et al. patent discloses a user adding content by entering a link to an image, document or web page (e.g., See Column 25, lines 47 - 50), as opposed to the system generating an identifier in response to user selection of a content entity as recited in the claims.

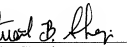
Since the McGraw-Hill publication and Helmick et al. patent do not disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the features recited in independent claims 1, 6, 16, 21, 31 and 36 as discussed above, these claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 - 5, 7 - 15, 17 - 20, 22 - 30, 32 - 35 and 37 - 45 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 16, 21, 31 or 36 and, therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. These claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for

substantially the same reasons discussed above in relation to their parent claims and for further limitations recited in the claims.

The application, having been shown to overcome issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Delivered on: 12-21-2006